11: Boyd H-4, 5 (1953) 1958
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of the Tarascans still provide the primary index of behavior in the pueblos of the lake, La Sierra, and La Cañada. The heroes and heroines pictured in this oral literature continue to serve as ideal behavioral referents, thereby providing through emulation the key to local approbation and social prestige.

The telling and re-telling of these legends is one way the Tarascans instruct their young people in societal cooperation and thereby maintain their cultural unity. Thus the Tarascan is provided with part of the cultural knowledge necessary to play the role expected of the individual in his native cultural setting. Even a casual visitor may notice certain attitudes of mind which date back to Conquest and pre-Conquest times, thereby providing the basis for a fundamental unity which has defied time and change.